

NOAA REPORT



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July 1994

Haddock Protection Becomes Permanent: In a continuing effort to protect once-plentiful haddock stocks off New England, three temporary measures known as Amendment 6 have become permanent.

The measures prohibit any vessel with a Federal permit from possessing more than 500 pounds of haddock either from or in Federal waters; prohibit scallop dredge vessels from possessing or landing any haddock from January through June; and extend closure of the Area II fishing zone along the eastern edge of Georges Bank from four to six months.

Oceanographers Aid Chesapeake Bay Swim: As hundreds of local swimmers

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participated in the 4.4 mile Chesapeake Bay Swim for the March of Dimes last month, NOAA information about weather, water temperature, tides and currents helped them meet the challenge more safely. NOAA also set the optimum time for the swim based on its forecasts.

The annual event has drawn hundreds of swimmers in past years who endeavor to cross the bay from Sandy Point State Park to Kent Island, a stretch parallel to the Bay Bridge. In 1991, 720 out of 884 swimmers were swept away by the strong currents and had to be taken from the water by rescue boats. In 1992, swimmers encountered strong currents, and scores had to be saved from the rushing waters. Only 48 of the 331 entrants finished. When NOAA became involved with the event for the first time last year, 504 out of a field of 521 swimmers finished the race.

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The California gray whale (above) has officially been taken off the endangered species list.

Commerce Secretary Brown Hails 'A Great Success Story'

Calif. Gray Whale No Longer On Endangered Species List

The California gray whale, long a symbol of both the plight and the grandeur of the world's great whales, has been officially taken off the endangered species list.

A 1992 review of the California gray whale by NMFS showed that the population has increased from less than 10,000 animals in the late 1930's to about 21,000 animals. NOAA's biologists estimate there are now at least as many

gray whales as in the pre-whaling days before the California gold rush.

'Cause for Celebration'

"This is a great success story and a

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First in Pacific Northwest

Olympic Coast Becomes Newest Marine Sanctuary

Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown has dedicated the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the first national marine sanctuary in the Pacific Northwest, to protect the coast's environment and natural resources.

The NOAA-managed sanctuary, the 14th in a network of "underwater National parks," stretches 135 miles from Cape Flattery halfway down Washington's undeveloped, rugged coastline, and encompasses 3,310 square miles. (See

map and related story, page 4.) The sanctuary's dedication signifies a commitment at Federal, state, tribal and local levels to join together to sustain

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Puget Sound Harbor Charts to be Updated

Existing hydrographic surveys of a harbor off Washington state's Olympic Coast peninsula—some dating back to 1892—will be updated at the request of the Puget Sound Pilots, the Port of Port Angeles, the City of Port Angeles and the local business community.

The new surveys of the Port Angeles harbor, to be made from June through November, will resolve discrepancies between charted and existing features and investigate wrecks and submerged features in the area. Over the years there have been reports of uncharted submerged objects, including some that have caused damage to ships. As new charts will take some time to produce, the Hydrographic Survey Party will notify mariners through special notice of

dangerous conditions found during the survey.

The project will provide comprehensive coverage within the Port of Port Angeles and 100 percent side scan sonar coverage in the approaches to the port. **Echo Sounders, Satellites, Sonar to be Used**

NOAA's Pacific Hydrographic Party will update the current nautical charts using echo sounders and Global Positioning System equipment to acquire sounding data. In addition, side scan

sonar will be used to locate wrecks and obstructions within the survey area; echo sounders and scuba divers will be used to determine their depth.

The Port of Port Angeles is frequently used by large vessels for refueling, awaiting orders or tugs, and refuge when weatherbound. Over the past 5-10 years there has been a steady increase in vessel traffic and size of ships. Docks at Port Angeles are now available with alongside depths of up to 45 feet. Commercial activities include oil handling and bunkering, liquid bulk handling, dry bulk handling (logs, lumber, limestone, etc.) and general cargo handling, including seafood. ☺

If You Love Dolphins, Don't Feed Them, NMFS Warns

Although commercial dolphin-feeding cruises in the Gulf of Mexico and Southeast Atlantic were effectively stopped last October following a Federal court ruling, NMFS officials say they are increasingly worried about recreational boaters and others who feed dolphins.

"Dolphins are wild animals, in spite of their seemingly friendly behavior," said Nancy Foster, NMFS's deputy director. "Feeding them may be fun for

humans, but it can be very harmful to the dolphins."

Foster said that feeding these marine mammals can make them less able—or

willing—to search for food on their own. In addition, she said, if food, is contaminated or not natural it can pose a serious health risk to the dolphins.

Officials with the fisheries service said people have been seen feeding dolphins beer, hot dogs and candy bars, items Foster calls "totally inappropriate."

Even more threatening to dolphins, said Foster, is the danger that feeding will cause them to become habituated to humans and make them lose their natural, wild-animal wariness.

"The end result of such a lack of wariness," said Foster, "may be a dolphin that gets entangled in a commercial fishing net or hit by a boat's propeller because it's become too trusting."

People 'Very Cooperative'

Once people are informed, "they've been very cooperative," said Bob Spraitz with the fisheries service's regional office in St. Petersburg, Fla. "Most people don't know that dolphin feeding is a problem," he added. "They're more embarrassed than anything else." ☺

California Gray Whale Delisted

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cause for celebration," said Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown. "Two tough Federal laws from the '70s—the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act—have helped bring this animal back from a critically low population."

"Although the gray whale is no longer considered in danger of extinction, it will remain safeguarded by the Marine Mammal Protection Act," said Douglas K. Hall, NOAA Deputy Administrator. "NOAA scientists will continue to monitor its status."

In addition to actions taken by the United States, both the Mexican government and the International Whaling Commission have instituted

policies to protect the California gray whale.

After completing the 1992 status review, NOAA asked the Fish and Wildlife Service to delist the whale. While NOAA has authority to list species under the Endangered Species Act, only the Fish and Wildlife Service can remove a species from the list.

Earlier Estimates Confirmed

Since finishing the review, NOAA has completed and made available to the public its draft "5-Year Plan for Research and Monitoring of the Eastern North Pacific Population of Gray Whales." Two recommended research projects have recently been concluded by NOAA scientists. The results of a survey during the winter of 1993-'94 of the gray whales' southbound migration confirmed earlier estimates of gray whale abundance. ☺

Visitor Center Opens at Tijuana Estuary

A new, award-winning visitors' center has opened at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. The center's interactive exhibits illustrate the elements of a rich and varied ecological system. ☺

Joint Program With EPA

Ultraviolet Level Forecast Debuts in 58 Cities

An experimental program designed to provide the public with an important new addition to the daily weather forecast—prediction of solar ultraviolet radiation levels—has debuted in 58 cities throughout the United States.

Joint NOAA-EPA Program

The program, announced jointly by NOAA and the Environmental Protection Agency, will offer citizens a look at the next day's level of ultraviolet (UV) radiation, helping them guard against overexposure.

Prolonged exposure to ultraviolet radiation has been associated with an increased incidence of skin cancer and cataracts. It is known to inhibit the immune system.

EPA's Office of Research and Development initiated the program in 1992 when it approached the National Weather Service to start a program following the success of a similar service in Canada.

"With the UV Index forecast, the public should be better informed to take simple actions to reduce overexposure to UV radiation," said EPA assistant administrator Mary Nichols. "Because scientists have estimated that people receive about 80 percent of their lifetime exposure to the sun by the age of 18, we think this is particularly important information for children and their parents."

Dollar Savings Potential

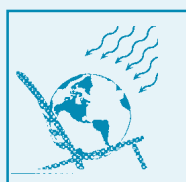
The potential for a daily ultraviolet

forecast to result in dollar savings is evidenced by Medicare's biggest cost line item in 1993: 1.2 million cataract operations.

As the weather service continues to

account for observed and predicted changes in stratospheric ozone data for all 58 cities and include the effects of computer-generated cloudiness for 56 of them. Clouds generally decrease the amount of ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface. Forecasts for Honolulu and San Juan, Puerto Rico,

Since Medicare's biggest 1993 line item was for 1.2 million cataract operation, protection against ultraviolet rays—a leading cause of the eye disease—has the potential to save health care dollars.



This logo will appear on the ultraviolet index educational materials produced along with the new forecasts.

refine the science behind the daily UV forecasts, it will distribute them to 58 cities during the experiment. EPA will work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a coalition of health, medical and environmental groups to provide information to the public about the UV Index and risks of overexposure to UV radiation.

"The weather service will make UV forecasts approximately 30 hours in advance using satellites, ground-based weather observations and computer models," said Elbert W. Friday, Jr., director of the National Weather Service. "We'll use this existing technology at no additional cost to taxpayers."

NWS meteorologists began issuing the experimental forecasts for the 58 cities this month. During the course of the experiment, NOAA and EPA will work with the private sector in a partnership to evaluate the level of service provided by an ultraviolet index and develop plans for the future of this service.

Stratospheric Ozone Changes Measured

The ultraviolet forecasts will

will not include the effects of cloudiness because the computer-generated cloud forecasts are not yet available for these locations.

Forecasts will be centrally issued by the weather service's National Meteorological Center in Camp Springs, Md., and sent to forecast offices around the country. Meteorologists at local forecast offices will voice the daily index over the NOAA Weather Radio network; forecasts will also be distributed to public and private meteorologists over the NOAA Weather Wire Service and other weather service information dissemination channels.

The daily forecast value in the ultraviolet index will be for approximately 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Daylight Savings Time in each U.S. time zone. The index is on a scale from 0 to 10, or higher in some areas, with corresponding exposure levels ranging from minimal to very high.

Effects on Eyes and Skin

The daily index, along with educational materials provided by EPA, will help people make informed personal decisions about the effects of UV rays on their eyes and skin.

Various private companies may produce similar forecasts that have different numerical values, but retain the same action messages and descriptions of exposure. ☺

NETSURFERS' UPDATE

The NWS' Southwest Agricultural Weather Service Center in College Station, Texas, has developed a World Wide Web (WWW) home page and gopher server for agricultural weather and general weather information. The information focuses on the Southern Plains states (Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico). The server also has links to other NOAA servers as well as a link to the main Texas Agricultural Extension Service's WWW server. You can access them on Internet's WWW at <http://swami.tamu.edu>, or by gopher at [swami.tamu.edu](gopher://swami.tamu.edu). ☺

FOCUS On...

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary stretches 135 miles along a pristine rugged coastline, from Cape Flattery, the northwestern-most point in the lower 48 states, to a point more than halfway down the Washington coast. This coastline, much of which is accessible only by boat, is a national treasure of remarkable beauty. The sanctuary extends out into coastal waters to the 100-meter depth mark and covers over 2,500 square nautical miles, an area more than twice the size of Yosemite National Park.

BROAD PUBLIC-PRIVATE COALITION

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary has been the vision of a broad coalition of local, state and national activists. Work towards designation of the sanctuary has been underway for over 10 years and will be dedicated at a regional ceremony July 16, 1994. NOAA will continue managing the sanctuary as the agency responsible for stewardship of national coastal and marine environments.

In 1972, in response to a growing awareness of the intrinsic environmental and cultural value of our coastal waters, Congress passed the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. The Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate discrete areas as National Marine Sanctuaries to promote comprehensive management of their special ecological historical, recreational and aesthetic resources. National marine sanctuaries may be designated in coastal and ocean waters, in submerged lands and in the Great Lakes and their connecting waters.

UNDEVELOPED COASTLINE

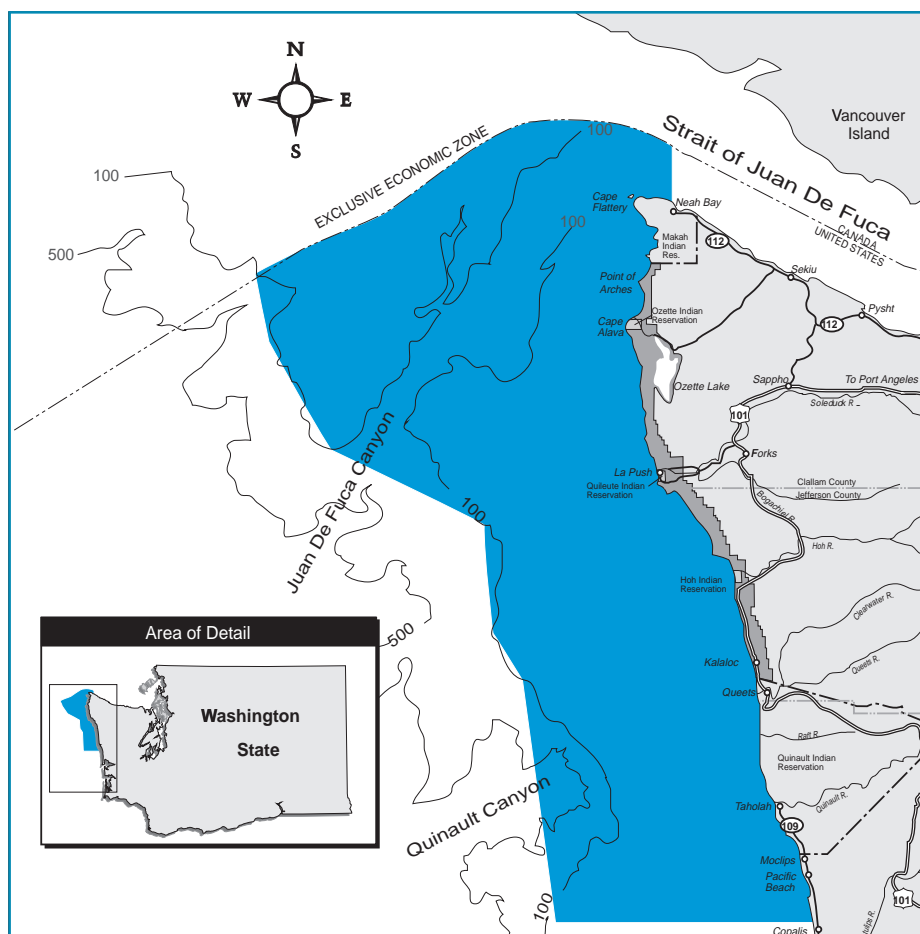
The sanctuary's includes one of the last relatively undeveloped coastlines in the United States. The entire sanctuary area is teeming with wildlife, and is important to the continued survival of several ecologically and commercially important species of fish and birds, and over 20 species of marine mammals. California gray whales are also common-

ly found within the sanctuary boundaries. Five species of salmon migrate through the sanctuary, concentrating in the prime feeding grounds over the offshore Juan De Fuca Canyon. Home to steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout, halibut, and flounder sanctuary waters

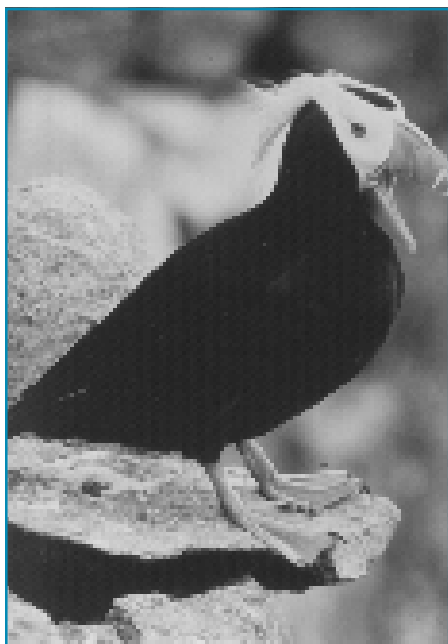
are also one of the most diverse intertidal ecozones in the world. The diversity and richness of marine life in the area are also a major resource for migratory bird species that stop in the area and the offshore islands. The sanctuary supports one of the largest concentrations of seabird colonies in the lower 48 states. It is not uncommon to see tens of thousands of seabirds feeding in sanctuary waters.

The area is home to four Native American tribes with heritages going back over 2,000 years within the region. A major archeological excavation associated with the Ozette tribe is considered to be one of the most significant archeological finds in North America. Local tribal cultures have strong ties to the coastal waters, including a long tradition of subsistence fishing and whaling.

Sanctuary regulations prohibit all seabed mining and oil and gas exploration and development within sanctuary



The newest national marine sanctuary, the Olympic Coast (in blue), is the first in the Pacific Northwest.



Puffins (left) and elephant seals (above) are two of the many inhabitants of the new Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, off the coast of Washington state.

boundaries, as well as the discharge of any materials into the water (except fish or bait, biodegradable effluent incidental to vessel use, engine exhaust, or dredged materials related to beach restoration activities.) Discharges that could subsequently drift into the sanctuary and injure resources are also prohibited outside the sanctuary boundaries. All historical resources are protected, and the taking of any marine mammal, sea turtle or seabird on or above sanctuary waters is prohibited, except as permitted by the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Air traffic below 2,000 feet within one mile seaward of both the sanctuary's coastal boundary and the offshore wildlife refuges is restricted.

PARK PROTECTION EXTENDED

The new Federal regulations complement and extend (but do not duplicate) protection afforded to the area by the Olympic National Park and a series of existing offshore wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, biosphere reserves, tribal wilderness areas, state beaches and county and state parks. The National Marine Sanctuary program extends the area's protection into coastal waters and addresses significant questions concerning resources, uses, and linkages between terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The program also brings together the wide range of research being done in the area, applying it to environ-

mental management planning.

Sanctuary designation also marks the close of a long local battle to end practice bombing by the Navy of Sea Lion Rock. New regulations prohibits all bombing activities within the sanctuary.

(Management of commercial and recreational fishing, however, is not within the scope of sanctuary regulations.) Although kelp harvesting is within jurisdiction of the sanctuary, regulations will not be put into effect since the state is developing a kelp harvesting management plan. In addition, NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard are drafting a proposal to reduce threats to sanctuary resources by restricting heavy vessel traffic within 25 nautical miles off the coastline.

A STRING OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is the fourteenth national marine sanctuary to be designated in coastal and ocean waters throughout the nation. These sanctuaries protect marine areas with nationally significant environmental, cultural, historical or research value. The national marine sanctuaries are administered by NOAA's Sanctuaries and Reserves Division. 🐟

Newest Marine Sanctuary Dedicated

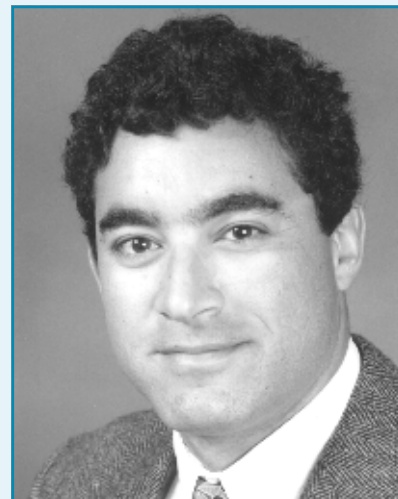
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and protect the Olympic Coast's pristine coastal environment and natural resources, NOAA and Commerce officials said.

"The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary represents an exciting opportunity to uphold President Clinton's commitment to protect the environment and promote economic growth," Secretary Brown said. "We look forward to working with the state, tribal and local communities to meet the challenge of preserving the natural treasures of the Olympic Coast while developing and diversifying the local economy."

Participating in the dedication with Secretary Brown were Washington Gov. Mike Lowry, tribal leaders and Washington state officials.

Gov. Lowry has pledged Washington state's partnership in working toward an ecosystem approach to marine conservation and management. "The Olympic Coast sanctuary



Olympic Coast manager Todd Jacobs

began with a vision to appreciate, in a network of "underwater national parks," preserve and protect Washington's Olympic Coast waters," Gov. Lowry said. "This dedication symbolizes unity for those who have tirelessly worked to make this sanctuary a reality. We look forward to continuing together in our shared goals." 🐟

Infection Found in Tissue Samples

Gulf Dolphins Died from Viral Infections

A **An outbreak of morbillivirus disease is probably responsible for the dramatic increase in bottlenose dolphin deaths in the Gulf of Mexico.**

The theory came from evidence produced through a collaborative effort involving the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland in Belfast, and the Marine Mammal Stranding Network. A novel molecular biology test, developed at AFIP, played a critical role in detecting the virus.

Morbilliviruses are a group of viruses that cause human measles, canine

distemper and rinderpest in cattle. Morbillivirus outbreaks caused the deaths of thousands of harbor seals in Northwest Europe in 1988, and of thousands of striped dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea in 1990. Recently, a morbillivirus was implicated as the cause of the 1987-'88 U.S. Atlantic coast epidemic that resulted in a 10-fold increase in the mortality of bottlenose dolphins.

First Confirmed in June 1993

The first confirmed case of morbillivirus infection from the Gulf of Mexico was a stranded dolphin near Panama City, Fla., in June 1993. Tissues were collected from an autopsy performed by veterinarian Byron K. Ford from the Panama City aquarium, Gulf World. Ford is a member of the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, a national volunteer organization that works with NMFS to assist and study stranded marine mammals.

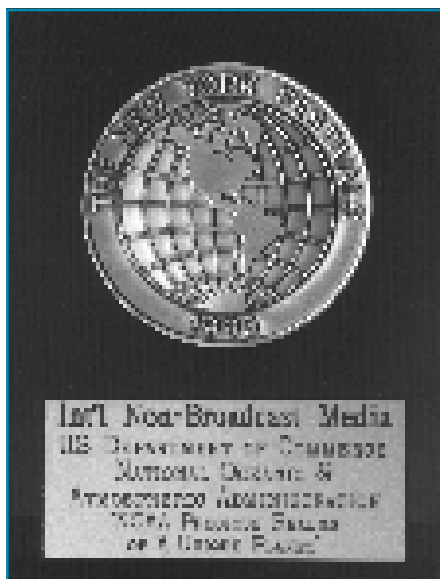
The stranded dolphin tissues were sent to Army Lt. Col. Thomas P. Lipscomb, the veterinary pathologist who heads AFIP's marine mammal studies. After finding microscopic

changes characteristic of morbillivirus infection, Lipscomb sent samples to the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland's Seamus Kennedy, an expert in morbillivirus infection in marine mammals. Kennedy detected the presence of morbillivirus antigen in the dolphin tissues, confirming the diagnosis.

NMFS then asked stranding network members to increase their efforts to search for stranded dolphins and send samples to the AFIP. Since then, more stranded dolphins have been observed in Alabama and Mississippi, and the AFIP-Belfast team found morbillivirus infection in several of them.

Increasing Stranding Rate

The dolphin stranding rate in Texas recently increased dramatically. Graham Worthy, coordinator of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, reports that over 220 dead bottlenose dolphins have washed onto Texas beaches since January, though only about 150 dolphins on average strand on the Texas coast in an entire year. All of the dolphin carcasses were badly decomposed, making it difficult to determine the cause of death by conventional methods. ☹



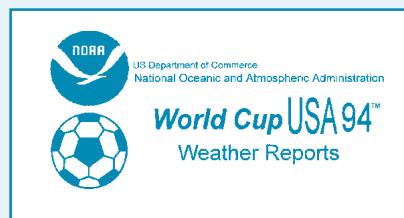
NOAA Video Wins Bronze Award at New York Festivals

The NOAA video, "NOAA: Precious Realms of a Unique Planet," was recently honored with a Bronze Medallion at the New York Festivals. This popular video introduces the viewer to NOAA's people, the tools with which they work, and the environmental realms they examine. Copies of the video were distributed throughout NOAA last year for use in briefings and public outreach programs. If you wish to borrow a copy of the video, call the NOAA Office of Public Affairs (202) 482-6090. ☹

At the Cup, Not Only Goalies Used 'Net

A **s the World Cup games headed into the final round of play this month, more than 7,000 soccer fans around the world had used computers linked to Internet to get the latest weather forecasts for the U.S. cities hosting the quadrennial tournament.**

NWS made forecasts for the remaining World Cup cities available on Internet via the NOAA Network



The logo used by NWS for World Cup weather forecasts on Internet.

Information Center.

NWS started transmitting forecasts to the international community beginning on June 1, and continued until the final game on July 17. The forecasts were available in Spanish since June 14.

"We are fulfilling our duty to provide free and open information to the world," said Elbert W. Friday Jr., director of the National Weather Service. ☹

U.S., Russia OK Closer Search, Rescue Ties

The United States and Russia have agreed to closer cooperation in the use of satellites for sea, air and land search and rescue services.

A statement announcing closer cooperation on satellite use for rescue missions was issued last month by the U.S.-Russian Joint Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation, which was established in 1993 to enhance bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas, including space, energy, trade, technology and defense conver-

sion. The Commission is co-chaired by Vice President Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Baker, Russian Space Chief Sign Accord

The statement was signed by NOAA Administrator D. James Baker and Yuri N. Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency. Both countries were recognized for their past successes

in the coordinated development of a global polar-orbiting satellite system for search and rescue. The statement highlights the potential for geostationary satellites to enhance existing search and rescue efforts.

For more than a decade, the United States and Russia have used polar-orbiting satellites to support the search and rescue of maritime, aviation, and land-based users in distress. The United States, Russia, France and Canada provide satellites, instruments and ground-receiving capabilities for Cospas-Sarsat, an international program for search and rescue. The program has assisted in the rescue of more than 3,500 individuals throughout the world, on land and at sea.

The United States currently has two geostationary environmental satellites, GOES-7, launched in 1987, and GOES-8, launched in April and expected to be operational in October. ☺

Seven States Receive Grants

Seven states will receive NOAA grants to monitor coastal changes:

- **California** will receive \$50,000 to help test a standard protocol for mapping emergent coastal wetlands and uplands;
- **Georgia**, \$38,000 to collect land cover and habitat information covering the past 10 years;
- **Louisiana**, \$65,000 over two years to determine if the land cover and functions of the coastal Mermentau River Basin and Chenier Plain have changed;
- **North Carolina**, \$130,000 over two years to develop a nationally standardized, digital, regional land cover change detection database;
- **New Jersey**, \$79,000 to develop a standardized information base on the present land cover of the Atlantic Outer Coastal Plain;
- **New York**, \$97,000 to monitor coastal change;
- **Oregon**, \$53,000 to conduct a regional land cover change analysis in the lower Columbia River, Willapa Bay and Ptolemaic Bay. ☺

Gore Names Ex-NESDIS Chief to Head Environmental Education Program

Vice President Al Gore has named Thomas N. Pyke, Jr., a NOAA scientist, to head the new GLOBE Program, a vice-presidential initiative to create a global network of students, teachers and scientists to monitor the environment and foster environmental awareness through education.

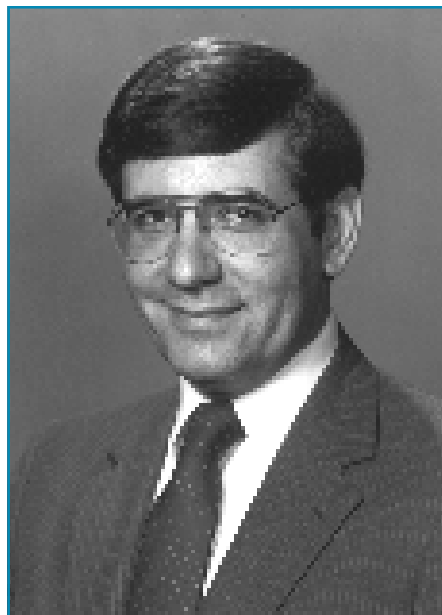
Pyke is currently director for NOAA's Office of High Performance Computing and Communications. He is also a former head of NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and has been a national leader in the areas of information technology, environmental satellites and environmental data management.

First Proposed in Book

The GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program was first proposed by the Vice President in his book *Earth in the Balance*. GLOBE will provide scientists with valuable information about our natural environment, including information on weather, air chemistry and quality, geological measurements and ecology.

"We are very excited about the GLOBE Program's unique mix of science and education. The vice president has laid out his vision for GLOBE. Our job now is to turn his vision into reality," Pyke said.

"We anticipate that the environmental measurements made by GLOBE students will complement other observations made by scientists and make a



New GLOBE head Thomas Pyke Jr.

tremendous contribution to our understanding of the Earth's environment," he said. "At the same time, students worldwide will gain a greater awareness of the environment. All of us involved in GLOBE look forward to working with today's student-scientists for a better tomorrow for all of us."

Chaired Working Group

Pyke chaired the interagency working group on data management for global change, helping to create a new national policy for global change data. The group also aided in and the completion of a program plan for a government-wide global change data and information system. ☺

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Recreational Fishermen Slow to Acquire Federal Bluefin Permit: Hundreds of recreational anglers who are expected to chase highly prized bluefin tuna off the Atlantic coast this season still have not obtained a Federal permit to do so. NMFS officials are concerned that many recreational anglers haven't yet received word that the Federal permit is required. The bluefin tuna season opened January 1, 1994, and permit regulations for private vessels have been in place since May 15.

Monitor Opened for Recreational Divers: For the first time, recreational divers can visit the shipwrecked Civil War ironclad warship *U.S.S. Monitor* in the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of North Carolina. The non-research dives will be administered, on a trial basis, through a special use permit

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awarded recently to a private concessionaire.

Until now, NOAA has granted permits only for research at the Monitor sanctuary. Under the terms of the special use permit, divers will be allowed to view and photograph—but not touch—the shipwreck. If the initial effort is successful, future special use permits may be issued. Fees collected for the permit will be used for continued protection and management of the *Monitor*. With the special use permit, NOAA is responding to requests from divers who want to visit the *Monitors* simply for the experience of seeing one of the most famous warships in U.S. history. However, NOAA has put conditions on the permit to ensure that the shipwreck will not be further damaged by dive activities.

The *Monitor*, which sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras, N.C., in 1862, is a national historic landmark as well as a national marine sanctuary. ☺



Running for a Cause, Racing for a Cure

NOAA Administrator D. James Baker (*third from left*) and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown (*center, in foreground*) joined other Commerce and NOAA employees last month on the Ellipse outside Commerce's Washington headquarters for the annual "Race for the Cure," to raise money for breast cancer research. ☺

NESDIS Services Division Honored

NOAA's Satellite Services Division in Camp Springs, Md., was recognized for excellence by the Public Employees Roundtable last month.

The NESDIS division provides environmental satellite information for use in severe weather forecasts and environmental monitoring. It provides data to other NOAA agencies such as the National Weather Service, National Ocean Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service; academic institutions; other government agencies such as the Department of Defense's Joint Typhoon Warning Center; and to the private sector. It also issues volcanic hazards alert messages used by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Diana Josephson, deputy under secretary for oceans and atmosphere, said that the division serves as an example for other NOAA offices. Josephson, who served at NESDIS several years ago, said she felt a special sense of pride in the award. "I still view myself as a NESDIS alumna," she said. She also presented a copy of the first engineering image from

the country's newest weather satellite to Tom Bloom, Commerce's Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration. The new Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, GOES-8, was launched from Cape Canaveral on April 13. ☺

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